

Mike has also played a vital role in furthering and representing the interests of his party. He served as the primary spokesperson and overall manager of the Bush-Quayle 1992 Colorado campaign, and was the 1992 executive director of the Colorado Republican Party. Mike's strong leadership and focused management led to effective candidate recruitment and significant improvement in fundraising goals by tripling the traditional party base support. Mike's political experience and dedication to the Mountain West made him a natural candidate for his position as the regional political director of Bob Dole for President. There, Mike was instrumental in building support for Western priorities while establishing close working relationships with officials on both the federal and local levels.

I learned firsthand of Mike's skills as an effective manager and team builder when he became my Chief of Staff in 1998. Through his direction, my office has been able to provide consistently high quality service to the people of Colorado's Third Congressional District. Mike has recruited a respected congressional staff who are committed to constituent casework and who work tirelessly to help me pass a number of sizable legislative initiatives, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. Mike has implemented a strong organizational structure throughout the office that has enabled greater staff interaction and has stressed personal responsibility, by providing timely and substantive responses to inquiries from my constituents. Mike has also fostered valuable relationships with city, county, and State officials, and has a successful working relationship with many of my colleagues in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Hesse is a natural leader and a passionate public servant whose dedication to the State of Colorado and this Nation serves as an inspiration to us all. Indeed, the legislative and policy successes I have enjoyed over the last 6 years would not have been possible without Mike's leadership within my office. I consider it a great honor to recognize his service and accomplishments before this body of Congress today. I want to personally thank Mike for his many years of commitment to our home state. I have never worked with such a fine individual as Mike Hesse.

# PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 2004*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

September 30, 2004: Rollcall vote 485, on H. Con. Res. 501, honoring the life and work of Duke Ellington, recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, and supporting the annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival, I would have voted yes.

October 4, 2004: Rollcall vote 487, on S. Con. Res. 76, recognizing that November 2, 2003, shall be dedicated to "A Tribute to Survivors" at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, I would have voted yes. Rollcall vote 488, on S. 1814, to transfer federal lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, I would have voted yes. Rollcall vote 489, on H. Res. 567, congratulating the American Dental Association for sponsoring the second annual "Give Kids a Smile" program which emphasizes the need to improve access to dental care for children, and thanking dentists for volunteering their time to help provide needed dental care, I would have voted yes.

October 5, 2004: Rollcall vote 490, on H. Res. 814, ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted yes. Rollcall vote 491, on H. Res. 814, adoption of the rule, I would have voted yes.

# PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUE SMITH

## HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great privilege to recognize an outstanding individual who for many years has honorably served the people of my congressional district and the entire State of Colorado. Susan Smith has served as my District Director for the past several years, and in that time, I have come to rely on her strong sense of integrity and leadership abilities to provide an unparalleled quality of constituent services to the people of my district. Sue has amassed an impressive

record of public service over her lifetime, and I am honored to bring attention to her accomplishments today before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Before Sue joined my staff, she worked at Colorado's Pueblo Community College in the Executive Vice President's office, where she was in charge of the school's operational policies and procedures. One of her main responsibilities was overseeing the funds provided to PCC under the Carl D. Perkins Federal Grant. Sue has always been a strong advocate for the importance of higher education and, over the years, has volunteered her time and energies to countless youth-oriented non-profit organizations. Before joining my staff full-time, Sue coordinated an educational program for my office known as SEEDS. This terrific program accepts and refurbishes donated government computers and places them in schools throughout the region whose students are in need of the educational opportunities these computers provide.

Sue's variety of non-profit experience made her a perfect candidate for the director of my district offices. Sue oversees four district offices in Pueblo, Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, and Durango in one of the largest congressional districts in the country. She has cultivated strong working relationships with city, county and state officials that have led to increased, effective communication and cooperation between local and federal governments. Through her diligent guidance and direction, my district offices have been able to make a difference in the lives of the people of Colorado's Third Congressional District. In addition, Sue coordinates my US Service Academy nomination process, which has enabled many high school students to pursue rewarding careers in our armed forces. Sue has personally spent countless hours aiding various local organizations as they try to navigate the complicated federal grant process in order to benefit from the much-needed funding those grants provide.

Mr. Speaker, Sue Smith is a dynamic and extraordinary leader whose amazing dedication to public service has made her a compassionate advocate for the interests of the State of Colorado. I am truly honored to stand before my colleagues to recognize the service of such a devoted public servant, a loving mother, and valued friend. Thank you, Sue, for your many years of hard work and your service to the people of Colorado and this Nation.